



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

3101 Park
Center Drive

Alexandria, VA
22302-1500

April 2007

Dear Software Industry Executive:

The eleventh release of the Child Nutrition Database (CN11) is currently available for computer software companies that have either received approval from the Department of Agriculture for their nutrient analysis software or are in the process of becoming USDA-approved. The CN11 release contains 459 new items and 3,362 revised items with a total of 10,862 active food items, including 8,249 processed foods.

USDA-approved software companies are required to submit their CN11 updated software to the software evaluation coordinator no later than 90 days from the date of this letter. The eleventh release can be downloaded from the Healthy Meals Resource System website at: <http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov/cndatabase.html>. This web location also contains the System Components and File Formats (SCFF) document that defines the structural design of the CN11 Database. All Standard Reference (SR) 19 updates have been applied to the SR products included in this release. The long descriptor field lengths for the Food Description Table (FDES), Food Include Table (FINCL), Food Subcode Description Table (FSUBDES), and Food Buying Guide Table (BUYGD) were increased from 200 to 255 characters. The Moisture Fat Change Table listed as "MSFTCHG" and the *Chef's Challenge* recipes were marked as discontinued in CN10 and have been removed from CN11. We strongly recommend that you remove all *Chef's Challenge* recipes from your software. However, if you continue to provide *Chef's Challenge* recipe data they must **not** be associated with USDA data and must be tagged as user or developer added.

As a reminder, it is required that there are no global conversions to fluid ounce, milliliter and liter measurements by USDA-approved software. It is acceptable for these liquid measurements to be included if the data are provided in the Weights Table of the CN Database or added by the developer or user. Additionally it is required that fractions be used on recipe reports, including the scaled/yield-adjusted recipes. Lastly, it is recommended that both the Retinol Equivalents and the International Units data be included on all reports and screens.

The following requirements will become effective with the incorporation of CN11 (90 days from the date of this letter):

1. **USDA Child Nutrition Database (CN Database) incorporated into software**
 - a. ***Starting with CN11, source tags used for CN Database items must be different from source tags used for user- or developer-added items.***

2. Create, Update, and Save Food Ingredients to the Local Database

- a. **Starting with CN11**, the user should only be able to enter a percent Daily Value for vitamin A for IU.

3. Ingredient Quantity Conversions

- a. **Starting with CN11**, all universal conversions must be tagged as locally-added.
- b. **Starting with CN11**, any global conversions to additional units of measure provided by the software developer must be tagged with a source code, so it is clear to the user that the source is not USDA's CN Database.

4. Quantity Recipes

- a. **Starting with CN11**, the USDA production recipes voluntarily entered by the developer must be tagged as developer-added USDA recipes.
- b. **Starting with CN11**, the voluntarily added USDA production recipes must be locked and a copy must be made before the user edits the recipe.
- c. **Starting with CN11**, the nutrient analysis of the voluntarily added USDA production recipe must be shown as the USDA analysis (using a link) or the yield factor method of analysis (using calculation).
- d. **Starting with CN11**, the voluntarily added USDA production recipes must be entered with the first of a choice of ingredients, whenever possible, and no optional ingredients.

The email version of this notification announcing the availability of CN11 will include two new guidance documents as attachments that are intended to assist developers who **voluntarily** add USDA production recipes with ingredients to their software programs. Look for the *Guidelines for Including USDA Production Recipes in the Software Programs Approved by USDA for NSMP and SMI* and the *Ingredients Used in Yield Factor Method Analysis of USDA Recipes for Schools – March 2007* attached to the CN11 announcement email message.

The CN Database is an integral part of both the USDA-approved Nutrient Standard Menu Planning (NSMP) and School Meals Initiative (SMI) Nutrient Analysis Software. The new data is vital to School Meals Program administrators, especially the updated and new nutrient values. **We ask that USDA-approved software developers notify Tim**

Vázquez at (703) 305-2609, as soon as possible if your software users will not be provided with updated versions of the software which reflect the new requirements and the new CN11 Database within 90 days of receiving this letter. Tim is also available to answer any questions you may have about the new CN11 Database. Once updated within the 90 day deadline, please forward a copy of your software to Natalie Partridge, 66 Penrose Drive, West Springfield, MA, 01089. A full version of the program **must** be submitted to Natalie so that it can be completely reinstalled on her new computer system. Effective immediately, Natalie's new email address is:
npartridge@nal.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Signed

STANLEY C. GARNETT
Director
Child Nutrition Division